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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:48:20 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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Text:

UNCLASSIFIED

SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 22, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1367 - ROUTINE)
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, SOCI
Captions: None
Subject: UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UAE
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 01367

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: P/M AMB DCM POL
Laser1:
INFO: FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: DCM: RAALBRIGHT
DRAFTED: ECON: GARANA
CLEARED: ECON: TEWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI433
RR RUEHC RUCPDOE RUEHZM RUEHTU
DE RUEHAD #1367 0811244
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 221244Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8986
RUCPDOE/USDOC WASHDC
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0491

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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/RA, DRL AND EB/CBA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS HOLD FOR FSI: OLIVER JOHN
USDOC FOR 4530/ITA/MAC/ONE/DGUGLIELMI,
4520/ITA/MAC/ONE/CLOUSTAUNAU,
4500/ITA/MAC/DAS/WILLIAMSON,
3131/CS/OIO/ANESA

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ELAB](#) [ECON](#) [SOCI](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UAE

1. (U) Local Arabic language press reported on March 15 that the official unemployment rate in the UAE was 2.6%, the lowest in the Arab world. The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs supplied this information to the Arab Labor Force Conference held in Tunisia in early March. The official rate reported by the

Emiratis was only for nationals and did not include unemployment in the foreign labor force. The following day however, local Arabic language press reported that the unemployment rate among nationals in Dubai was 10.43%, a statistic released by Dubai Municipality.

12. (SBU) Comment: If the unemployment rate among nationals is over 10% in Dubai, the second largest Emirate in the UAE, unemployment for the country is unlikely to be as low as 2.6%. National government unemployment figures are probably unreliable -- UAE macroeconomic information in general is suspect -- reflecting political agendas more than detailed and accurate statistical analysis. The Dubai figure is likely to be more credible as many nationals remain voluntarily unemployed due to unrealistic salary and work expectations even though the government has sought to convince Emiratis -- through training and work placement programs -- to consider a wider range of jobs, particularly in the private sector. Unfortunately, most Emiratis prefer the easier work environment and better benefits of the public sector, despite the fact that most of the jobs are in the private realm.

Wahba